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FEBRUARY 16, 1959

CN: 1223

FEB 18 43 PM '59

FROM: U. S. MISSION BERLIN

TO: Ambassador Bonn G-116
Secretary of State G-290

RPTD : POLAD UHAREUR

REF.: Berlin's G-109 to Bonn, G-279 to Dept

At recent meeting of Political Advisers British representative requested our views on what Allied policy should be with regard to permitting Soviets to continue enter West Berlin in event East Germans should close East-West sector border. British thinking particularly in terms movement Soviet personnel to Spandau Prison and Soviet War Memorial, both of which in British Sector. British recognized we cannot predict steps East Germans might take against traffic into East Sector, but nevertheless requested views be based on assumption such traffic, both Allied and German, would be at least severely curtailed.

We believe, even in event complete closure East-West sector border by East Germans, it preferable to permit Russians enter West Sectors freely on grounds that (1) it unwise for Western Allies to take on share onus of making final split of city; (2) we would not want to appear to recognize legality of terminating free movement throughout city by restricting such movement ourselves. Although British did not mention Berlin Air Safety Center (which in American Sector), Soviet access to BASC is one phase of Soviet travel to West Sectors that we have substantial interest in maintaining. Although it unlikely Sovs will continue participation BASC after closure sector borders, we would not rpt not want to shut them out and thereby assume part of onus for terminating four-power character of BASC.

On other hand, permitting Soviet personnel to enter West Berlin should not rpt not necessarily continue indefinitely after closure sector-sector border by East Germans. When it becomes apparent Soviets have no intention of continuing participation at BASC and have irrevocably abandoned all their responsibilities with regard to Berlin, we should consider closing Spandau Prison and imposing restrictions on Soviet movements into West Berlin.

We realize that no final policy can be developed until exact nature restrictions on Western access to East Berlin becomes known. In meantime if Embassy and Dept agree, we will reply to British inquiry along foregoing lines.

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USCIB concurs.

Cleared with USCIB - Col. Johnson

2-16-59

C. Johnson/plb

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NADA Date 10/7/89